

# The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1912.

## SHOULD BE VETOED.

Five men—Senators Walker, Fletcher, Holt, Mapp and West—yesterday had the good courage to vote against the outrageous legislation hurried through the General Assembly by the officeholders' trust. To those who strive for good government for the people and by the people, the action of these five legislators is as refreshing as that of the remaining thirty-four is deplorable. Doubtless some legislators voted tenure everlasting to city treasurers and commissioners in a belief that such action was constitutional, but others were not obedient unto the whisper of the special class interested in the passage of this bill. Undoubtedly there were some who, convinced that the bill is in conflict with the Constitution of Virginia, nevertheless voted for it "by special request." To deny that the officeholders insistently solicited the support of legislators and that these officeholders were the only ones interested in this bill is to disregard completely the facts. City treasurers and commissioners and their allies have been at work and they showed their hand yesterday.

It was a good fight that Senator Walker made against this measure. If it was a losing one. When he challenged any Senator to get up and say like a man that he or any other voter wished to vote separately on city treasurer and commissioners, no man spoke. "I have thrown out the bait and no one dares touch it," said Senator Walker. Nobody would say that the people desire this amendment, and since the people do not wish it, as the Senators themselves so clearly testified by their silence, who wants it but the officeholders themselves?

The General Assembly has passed this bill. It is true, but it is not yet law. The sanction of the Senate cannot make wrong right nor that which is unconstitutional constitutional. Into the hands of Governor Mann the bill goes now, and he, in the exercise of his good conscience, must say the final word. Good lawyer that he is, sworn defender of the Constitution, he will consider well this matter. The main question to which he will address himself will be the constitutionality of the act. If he will read over the delightful essay of Randolph Harrison, who appeared for City Treasurer Adams, of that city, and the searching briefs of Fred Harper, of Lynchburg, and Senator Walker, of the other side; if he will look up the state of the law, he will find, in our opinion, that the tremendous weight of authority is against the constitutionality of the act. In fact, the advocates of the measure have cited not a single decided case or principle of law sustaining their contention. Dicta have been resorted to by the advocates, dicta which could be invoked in any old case at any old time on either side. Governor Mann knows, as the Senate ought to have known, that where doubt arises as to constitutionality, that doubt must be resolved in favor of the Constitution.

The Times-Dispatch believes that Governor Mann would render an excellent and commendable public service in sending this bill back to the General Assembly without his signature. Members of the General Assembly are now relieved of their pledges of support, and upon a reconsideration they could discuss and consider, as they did not before, the case upon its merits and as to its constitutionality. The officeholders' monopoly in restraint of rotation in office is powerful, but it cannot stand the light of truth and reason.

## UNDERWOOD ON THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

In a clear, compact, concise, incisive article in the last number of The Independent, Representative Oscar W. Underwood discusses the "Right and the Wrong of the Tariff Question." Owing both to his position as tactical leader of the Democratic majority in the House and the responsibility that rests upon him as an exponent of its policies, Mr. Underwood's views on any public question are of widespread interest, not only to his own party, but the nation at large, and, as to his particular subject in this instance, the interest is emphasized by the fact that he is chairman of what The Independent correctly terms the "powerful" Ways and Means Committee of the House. The article may be appropriately described as a concentration—the essence or the residuum—of what on various occasions he has said in discussing details of particular schedules, etc. It goes directly to the crux of the matter.

Mr. Underwood recognizes that the tariff is the paramount issue in this fierce declaration: "To my mind the line of distinction between the two great parties in this country is the difference between a prohibitive and a competitive tariff bill," and then proceeds to show that the Republican party stands for the one, the Democratic party for the other. He wishes it distinctly understood that he himself is not a "free

trader," and that the Democratic party is not a "free-trade" party. "There never has been," he asserts, "a tariff bill enacted into law by the Democratic party that has not favored a tariff for revenue as opposed to a tariff along free trade line." Mr. Underwood recognizes the suggestion that he or his party has any sympathy with any course that will reduce the wages of American workmen, and in addressing himself to, and refuting the "popular" but insidious argument which has so often been advanced, that prohibitive duties protect American labor—an argument which he frankly admits has proved "telling"—he demonstrates that there is not a protected industry where the amount of protection afforded has not been in excess of the difference between the cost of labor at home and abroad.

Then he drives home the nail and clenches it in thus resuming: "I know that high condition would be improved by a reduction of the tariff to a competitive basis. It would put the industries of the country in such a healthy condition that when hard times came the foreign goods would suffer while the American workman would hold his place. Behind this high protective wall the American people are obliged to purchase alone from the American manufacturer. This expands conditions and develops business to such an extent that when hard times come there is no place for retrenchment, no place for surplus production, and the home factories have to shut down."

Another specious contention of the high protectionists—the prohibitive tariff fulgemen—is that tariff reform—coming down to a basis of tariff for revenue—would be in the nature of a violent wrench that would demoralize business, industrial life and financial conditions. Mr. Underwood meets this and overthrows its supporters and propagandists with commitment to "conservatism" and the principle of making haste slowly. Having pointed out that the inordinate greed for gain has driven the advocates of protection up to the very limits of a prohibitive tariff in spite of the fact that there is not an American industry to-day which is not exporting its surplus and competing at lower prices than are obtained at home—in the markets of the world, he admits that these conditions are "shackles" we cannot strike off in an hour without serious danger. "But," he adds, "we can turn our faces away from them and gradually and carefully meet the new conditions that face us without injury to labor or capital." And again:

"The Democratic party does not intend to abandon the custom houses, but for revenue purposes only—the reduction of tariff taxes to a point where fair competition will bring about reasonable prices and destroy monopolistic tendencies. It holds that no man is in a position to either warrant or justifiably protect the profits of a producer and destroys honest competition. 'I have never been able to see why the great manufacturer should have his profits protected any more than the farmer, the grocer, the lawyer, and whenever we enter the realm of protection we are in the zone of protection. A tariff bill high enough to protect a man's profits is a tariff levied, not for revenue, but for the purpose of enriching a private interest at the expense of the people and of the government.'"

In conclusion, Mr. Underwood expresses the conviction that the sooner people of the United States realize these facts, the sooner they will cast off the theories of protection, which they can do to the benefit as well of the labor as the commerce of the country. So we believe. As it impresses us, and as Mr. Underwood, we think, has rendered absolutely and convincingly plain, that the highest duty of the Democratic leaders—their highest duty to their party and the nation, their mission in truth—is to devote themselves unceasingly and aggressively to seeing that the American people shall realize them. In his views—in the creed he has enunciated, in The Independent, Mr. Underwood has furnished the campaign material with which to accomplish that mission.

## GERMANY'S CHINA PROPOSITION.

Germany's reported initiative in a second movement to ensure the territorial integrity of China, by inducing the powers to refrain from interference in the situation except in common, is commendable, and it is hoped that the object will be attained. None the less, in all the circumstances, it is open to the suspicion of being not altogether altruistic and in the interest of the empire's entity. It is suggestive of a word for China and two words for Germany.

In principle, as we gather from Berlin dispatches, Germany in her proposition follows the lead of Secretary Hay's post Boxer disturbance "note," through which was secured from the powers, or most of them, formal commitment against the partitioning of China. But the United States were, and are on an entirely different footing from that of Germany in respect of this matter. We have and had no territorial possession or sphere of influence in the empire; Germany has both. Set as to both is in the vantage as compared with four of the powers. It will be remembered that at about the time the Kaiser proclaimed a new Hanse and sent his sailor brother steaming away to far Cathay, in command of a few "naval tubs," all the fleet was deliberately referred to in some of the English papers, Germany secured indemnity for ill treatment of some missionaries in the form of the right to exploit a certain strip of Chinese territory. Since then she has not only been keeping up her fences in that holding, but extending her influence beyond it.

However, she would be like the poor boy at the frolic in the event of partition. What with Japan and Russia planted jointly in Manchuria the latter bordering China's domain of Mongolia and Turkestan etc., conceded definite purpose to absorb both, Great Britain, practically contiguous to China proper through virtual pos-

session of Tibet, and France holding a strong strategic cordon of vantage on the Chinese Southeastern frontier, should these powers decide that the opportune time had come for slicing the loaf, Germany would, for the present at least, be in no position to demand, and would probably not get, more than an insignificant crumb. She would be but a negligible and lone piece of fringe on one of the four big partitions of the garment.

It is easy to understand, therefore, that statesmanship, wise commercial policy, zealotism of her prestige in the Far East, and natural selfishness rather than regard for the perpetuity of Chinese territorial entity may dominate with her in urging that well enough or bad enough be left alone, by tying the hands of her rivals against partition; or rather, by inducing them to tie themselves, which, owing to their jealousy of one another, would result automatically, so to speak, from interference in common.

A REFUGE TO ANTIHOME RULES. In reviewing the condition of the real estate business in the United Kingdom in 1911, the London Economist, the highest authority on that subject, says that Ireland showed greater improvement than any other part of the country. "The magic of property," it comments, "has worked wonders;" and the fact that tenants own their own lands has produced an enormous increase in agricultural industry, the Economist adds. This exhibit, another contemporary remarks, thoroughly vindicates the wisdom of those who held that reform of the land system of Ireland was the most vital need of the isle.

It does more than that. It rebukes and puts absolutely on the defensive the antihome rulers, who contend that the Irish should not be trusted with self-government, because of their lack of appreciation of responsibility. Land ownership by the former tenant class of Ireland not only affords a striking demonstration repugnant to that contention, but is another notable proof of the inevitable trend of responsibility to develop conservatism and content.

The most elementary reasoning leads directly and logically to the conclusion that home rule in Ireland would result in increasing this conservatism and content, thereby working to enhance Irish loyalty to the United Kingdom.

The Rev. William Burd, a Hillsdale, N. J., pastor, has started a boys' whistling club in his parish, believing that whistling "may be a means of grace." Last Sunday the boys whistled in church—hymn tunes, of course—and wound up by letting the congregation hear their club yell:

"Say, my friend, Have you seen Second Timothy, Two-fifteen? First Thessalonians, Five-twenty-two, Tells you exactly What to do."

Before long they will probably be greeting the pastor when he gets up to begin his sermon with "three long 'rahs.'"

Judges as a class abound in humor, however dry and prosy their decisions may be. Often they cannot resist the temptation to enliven their opinions with flashes of wit or humorous allusion. A case in point is that of Mr. Justice Peckham, of the Supreme Court of Alabama, who in a late decision says: "The expression 'a long time' would refer to a very different period of duration and have a widely different meaning in measuring time when used by an archaeologist having reference to the period of existence of the Egyptian pyramids than when used by Carolina Governors with reference to the time between drinks."

It will be a long time before the Carolina Governors will say it again, for both are on the water wagon now.

One of the reasons why he should come to Richmond is that Governor Harrison will get to meet Senator Harrison.

The foes of Woodrow Wilson will never have cause to utter the ancient lament, "My desire is . . . that mine adversary had written a book."

During the clamorous silence of the Colonel, Mr. Taft doubtless finds a most appropriate sentiment in the Book of Job, which he received as a Christmas present: "Who can open the doors of his face? His teeth are terrible round about."

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

**Petersburg School.**  
 Is there in Petersburg a "Southern Female Seminary"? If so, who is the president?  
 There is a Southern Female College, of which Dr. A. K. Davis is president.

**Richmond Author.**  
 Please inform me how old James Branch Cabell, the writer, is.  
 Mr. Cabell was born April 14, 1879.

**In Florida.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—One can scarcely imagine the sudden transition from Richmond to Florida.

When we left Richmond Friday night the temperature was 42, and the Pullman was ornamented with icicles pendant from the roof. When we reached Jacksonville Saturday our eyes were greeted by roses in full bloom, orange trees in full fruitage and vegetation in full blossom; balmy air, windows open, temperature 80. This is a most delightful little town, with nine hotels, eight churches, etc., situated not very far from the central part of Florida—thirty-five miles from the Atlantic Ocean and ninety from the Gulf of Mexico, and ninety from Tampa. The transition is something wonderful, and our Richmond friends would enjoy the change.

J. STAUNTON MOORE.  
 Orlando, Fla.

**Even if we should have a mild open winter there's Congress. The feller that's his own worst enemy is often his best friend o' lots o' other folks.**

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

**The Grocery Store Symposium.**  
 Old man Purdy's got it sized up good and properly this year. There is no mistake about it, for from all that he kin hear Just one man has got a cinch upon the Democratic plumb, And he'll get the nomination, and it's certain for to come again. There are no two ways about it. No one else has got a chance.

Uncle Ezekiah Frisby says that Old Man Purdy's wrong. And that along next summer he will have to change his song. Judson Harmon is the feller who has got the lead pipe cinch. He's got it nailed down tight, and with a good old-fashioned cinch. Any feller from Ohio's surely got the inside track, And Ezekiah says he'll never have to take it back.

Grandpa Binks says both are wrong; he wants it understood. The nomination's sure to go to Oscar Underwood. While Ansel Perkins says as sure as blackbirds all are dark The nomination's bound to go to no one but Chas. Clark. But Amory Hicks, who is an active Democratic fan, Says he has got it straight that Carter Harrison's the man.

Old Ezra Harkins says he wants the bunch to understand That Bryan is the only one in all this great, broad land Who's got a look-in on the thing. He'll get it sure as sin. He's voted for Bill three times, and he'll do the same thing again. Each day they meet down at the store and thrash the matter out, But still there ain't one o' 'em knows Just what he's talkin' 'bout.

The feller that keeps braggin' about his virtue hasn't had it very long.

**Caught on the Fly.**  
 The Kansas employment bureau says college students make the best farm hands. It may also be said that farm hands make the best college students.

Now that it is rumored that Editor George Harvey has gone back on Woodrow Wilson, the latter may view the situation with some degree of hope.

T. R. is still chopping down trees on his Oyster Bay estate. Can it be that he is getting ready to build a presidential platform?

John D. Rockefeller now wears a paper vest to protect him from the cold. Ah, another vested interest.

An Indiana woman who is rich has married a chauffeur. Only the rich can afford to marry them.

T. R. seems to have the same opinion of peace that General Sherman had of war.

General Ma, of the Chinese army, by the way, is not a suffragist.

Wisconsin has felt an earthquake shock. It must have been a good one, for it takes a great deal to shock Wisconsin since the Ike Stephenson episode.

Gaby Deslys has 250 gowns, but she does not use any of them in her theatrical performances.

Some of the New York papers are wondering how much money Mr. Pulitzer really left. It is safe to say that he left all of it.

President Emeritus Eliot says prize-fighting is not so brutal as football. And there is a lot more money in it, too.

One Michigan hunter is said to have survived through seven deer seasons. He must have a charmed life.

It is going to be some job to remember offhand the names of the new Chinese Cabinet.

Anthony in Tripoli is receiving some great additions every day now.

**Suggestions for the Annapolis Club.**  
 The gentleman who writes the garden seed catalogues.

The waiter who says: "It will only take five minutes, sah."

The conductor who promises to make up time.

The lady who shouts: "O, I am so glad you called. I was just thinking about you."

## Voice of the People

**Criticizes the Fish Commission.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—In your issue of the 9th you quote from the report of the Commission of Fisheries as follows: "Unwilling to surrender a profitless right given them under the laws, the people of these two sections for the most part have to go away from home in the season of oystering to make a living. Our regret, and we trust the only one that your commission will take out of office with it, is that the people of York River and Mobjack Bay denied the officials the privilege of restoring their natural resources, as has been done in the Pocomoke Sound and the James River, and other parts."

This strikes me as being a most remarkable statement to be made by high officials in an official report—namely, that the river and bay industry of the whole State on such a boom as was never known in the history of the industry before. Let the Legislature establish a line from Newport News to some point on the opposite side of the James—say, Pig Point—declare the river and bay open to the line natural rock bed or shoal as fast as the present leases of the planting grounds, which are all or nearly all in reality natural rocks, expire, pull up the stakes and turn out to the public. Take a few thousands of the dollars saved in the costs of police and shell which are the costs of police and private, as may be found to be too much denuded of clutch to recuperate within a year or two after being reseeded. With judicious management supplies of Virginia will be ample and sufficient.

If the Commission of Fisheries would bring this about, it will indeed have accomplished something worth while—something very much more than drawing most lucrative salaries and having a good time generally.

CHARLES CATLIETT.

## Game Laws Violated.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Not for many years have wild water fowl been so freely offered on the streets of this city. On Broad and Main Streets they are being sold from wagons, and prospective purchasers are told "there is not a shot in them."

Is it not unlawful for wild water fowl to be trapped or netted? Has some method been invented by which these birds can be killed "without a shot in them"? If so, would not it be wise to have a new law against this "infernal apparatus?"

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## HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT EVERY REPUBLICAN "STRAW VOTE" INVARIABLY SHOWS AN OVERWHELMING PREPONDERANCE OF ROOSEVELT SENTIMENT?

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



game laws in their present shape without a head to see that they are enforced?

Can there be any doubt left of the crying need of a State game commissioner, when, in the capital of Virginia, while the General Assembly is actually in session, the netter and trapper of wild water fowl ships his illegal catch here for our Senators to rap upon?

I hope every member of the General Assembly will see this article and realize that the laws he is now enacting will bring discredit to his State unless he provides a sane method of their enforcement, and ask himself the question if the makers of our present game laws did so.

Richmond. M. D. HART.

## A Woman Farmer's Views.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I, unlike many other women, am not clamoring for a vote and voice in the matters that make up the measure of our government. I am not in Sunday's, also Monday's, issue of The Times-Dispatch articles in regard to the promotion of the industry of grinding limestone for the good of the farmers of the State.

If I mistake not the farmers of Virginia are far more able to form companies and go into this business, as did my dear farmer friends, you cannot afford to do without the agricultural limestone that analyzes a high percentage of lime, the true volute at 80 percent, running from 85 to 99 percent, pure calcium silicate. Your sour Virginia soils are crying aloud for it to make crops that cannot be husked or unhard.

If you cannot afford to put in pulverizers now, go build some old-fashioned lime kilns and burn them as did your forefathers many years ago. Put your unslaked lime in piles on the ground, and when you have it covered with earth and allow it to bake, when the last days of March come on and your land is sufficiently dry, plow it in. It will make a difference in the poor gray mules or those old bony horses. Invest in some dynamite. Get information from the Agricultural Department at Washington as to how to use it, and if you have the good sense to be a good farmer, follow directions and get results. If you are possessed of an old drag harrow use it at least twice a month on this land until the latter part of July; then in a bed, soft and mellow, sow your alfalfa—good inoculated seed. Love results. Him who sends alike the sunshine and showers. The following year you will be reaping results. Of a few things it will do for you I mention first:

1. It will stay hard times.
2. It will enable you to keep both cows and calves in milking numbers.
3. It will educate your beautiful, bright-eyed daughter.
4. It will give your son a good college education topped off with a thorough course at the best agricultural college, and if I am not begging the question, and you, Mr. Virginian, can clasp hands across the border, send your boy to Columbia, O. now, to my mind, the best college of the kind in the South, come to Virginia. We can give you stone directly on the Chesapeake and Ohio that analyzes 99.85 pure.

I am a woman who in ten years has brought a poor, worn-out farm up from keeping a couple of horses and about three cows to keeping twenty head of the best milk-producing cows in West Virginia, four good horses and from ten to twelve head of other stock, I now own some of the finest Jerseys in the State.

Before doing anything with your limestone have an analysis made by a reliable chemist (some State universities do this for nothing), and if they cannot hand you an analysis in the night, come to West Virginia. We can give you stone directly on the Chesapeake and Ohio that analyzes 99.85 pure.

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In the United States.) While my twenty cows net me \$1,200 a year, it is not the best my farm should do, and by judicious use of stone I mean to reap the best, and although I am a woman past forty, I am going to take a full agricultural course (during a specialty) at the Columbia University. For the man who makes the most rapid strides in accomplishing that which is best for mankind is the man at whose feet I will gladly sit to gather wisdom. Although I am a southern born and bred woman I would do and consider it an honor to gain knowledge from any man who in his zeal to accomplish the greatest good for the most people looks for lines nor recognizes lines.

Now, I summing up the world's great men, who to mankind has done most good. I wonder who will answer then. The plaudits of the multitude. Will it be he who scatters gold broadcast and with a lavish hand. Lifts up the fallen, cheers the old, and spreads good cheer in this great land?

On that great day there will be one who stands apart with uncrowned glory. Who has studied deep the things of life, and has taught others why and how.

Any information gladly given. A W. VA. WOMAN FARMER.

## Fish Ladders.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I wish to add a word of endorsement, as well as a slight suggestion, for the movement to establish better protection to game in our State. I believe this matter should be under a particular hand.

In the consideration of the matter I hope the item of fishways, or ladders, will not be overlooked. Our statutes call for construction of the Moccasin highway when certain conditions obtain. The Moccasin has been obsolete for years—no models of it to be procured anywhere. My suggestion is that wherever this appears in the statutes, the verbiage "or some fishway," indorsed by the Game Commission (if it becomes a department) or by the State Commission of Fisheries (if no game department be created), be inserted.

By fault of the statutes, as much as by physical inability to handle up-country fish matters, the Commission of Fisheries has been unable to enforce the law as to fish ladders. In equity, these up-country fish matters should not be made to fall under the supervision of my department, which has its hands full of Tidewater administration. Enforcement of local statutes for sections above tidewater have had to be left to local officials.

W. McDONALD LEE.

## Francis T. Nichols.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Louisiana is mourning the loss of her greatest son, General Francis T. Nichols. He served his native State in the times of her greatest need, and every tribute of loving respect is being paid to his memory. New York or Ohio, honoring him through her papers. Should not Virginia have some tribute for the brave general who fought to protect her soil, and lost an arm and leg in her defense?

SUSAN G. NELSON.  
 Williamsburg.

## Writer's Address on Letters.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Won't you kindly make a suggestion to our people to put their street and number on their letters? The writer being away from home, although he knows where his friends live, of course, cannot remember the number of their houses.

AWAY FROM HOME.  
 New York.

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